

Foundation Grants FAQ – Round 2 External

Updated 20/11/2023. Updated language **highlighted**.

<p>What sort of research will the Foundation Grants consider?</p>	<p>The Foundation Grants will fund proposals that address the overall mission of the Centre including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of platform technologies that will develop therapeutics for pathogens of pandemic potential at speed. • Fundamental virology, bacteriology or immunology that will identify novel targets for therapeutics for pathogens of pandemic potential • Development of therapeutics that have activity across viral or relevant bacterial families e.g., therapeutics that have activity against all sarbecoviruses not just SARS-CoV-2 • Enabling capabilities such as animal models, organoid systems, assay development, bioinformatics, genomics or biomarkers or other capabilities that can support therapeutic development. <p>The Centre is pathogen agnostic. All approaches should target a pathogen of pandemic potential and/or can rapidly adapt to a new pathogen.</p>
<p>How many applications can a Chief Investigator be listed on?</p>	<p>There is no limit to the number of proposals for individual investigators, but an investigator may only be named <u>Chief Investigator</u> on one proposal.</p>
<p>Please specify more details of the eligibility of applicants</p>	<p><i>Chief Investigators with a principal appointment (salaried or honorary) at either the University of Melbourne, The Doherty Institute, or the Royal Melbourne Hospital are not eligible to apply for this round, however may be listed as co-investigator on an external applicant’s proposal. Chief Investigators eligible to apply for Round 1 funding are not eligible to apply as Chief Investigators for Round 2.</i></p> <p>There is no limit to the number of proposals an investigator may be named on, but an investigator can only be the Chief Investigator on one proposal.</p> <p>A Chief Investigator must hold a salaried position at their home institution for the duration of the funding period.</p>

Does each proposal have to have a Doherty collaborator?	No.
What are the expectations on level of applicant?	The focus of the award will be on the best science.
Does being involved in this Foundation Grant round make you ineligible for future CGCPT opportunities eg. Fellowships?	No.
How many grants will be awarded?	We are aiming to fund the best science. We have an initial budget to award between 8-10 proposals. This will be a highly competitive call and we reserve the right to review that number.
Are teams eligible for CGCPT Foundation Grants, or are these awarded to individual researchers alone?	Teams and individuals are eligible. The grant is awarded to the named Chief Investigator who would then arrange transfer of funds within the team.
Is there a limit to the number of co-investigators?	There is no limit.
What costs are covered by the grant?	PhD stipends: Please note that a plan for funding of that PhD for the period post grant funding will need to be provided upon award. Consumables—such as reagents Travel—travel cannot be the sole purpose of the grant, and should be reasonable and include economy class fares only Personnel—Salaries for named staff must accurately reflect their actual salary and effort on the project. Overheads may be included within the total grant amount, i.e. within the total maximum AUD \$600,000 funding envelope. Overheads are capped at 10% of the total grant.
Are Early Career Researchers eligible to apply?	Early Career Researchers are encouraged to apply.
What is included in the submission?	The SmartyGrants launch pad includes information on all the data required for the proposal. The submission should address the scoring criteria and demonstrate how the proposal contributes to the Centre focus.
Any recommendations on how we should format the CV?	There is no designated format. This is at your discretion.

	However, you may look to the NIH CV template as a model for guidance.
What is the assessment process?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grants team will review EOI submissions and confirm eligibility and compliance. 2. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. 3. Grants team will collate completed full proposals and distribute to assessors for review. 4. The CGCPT board reserves the right to identify grants that will not be sent for review, if the proposal does not meet the goals for the Foundation Grant Program. 5. Scores are calibrated, including standardizing, determining of Z-scores, and ranking of proposals. 6. Review of ranking and strategic alignment by the Interim Scientific Advisory Board (ISAB) to ensure the Foundation Grants fund a sufficient breadth of approaches, and reflect the principles and values of the Doherty and Centre, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread of technical focus • Distribution across research teams • Inclusion and Diversity of research teams 7. Recommendations from the ISAB are approved by the Governance Board.
Where is the assessment panel being sourced?	We have a pool of potential assessors to call on, both Australian based and International.
How many grants can a co-investigator be listed on?	A co-investigator can be named in an unlimited number of grants.
Are there funding opportunities for PhD fellowship?	PhD stipends can be included as part of a research activity. However, a plan for how that PhD will be funded post-grant completion will be required upon award.
If groups pitch similar proposals or approaches, or have matching expertise, would the Centre be open to combining efforts in a sort of 'program' style grant?	Yes, this is feasible but not guaranteed. Each proposal should be able to stand alone and not depend on a separate proposal also being funded.
Can the grant be on developing interventions like medications or vaccinations to prevent disease rather than treat?	Please refer to the technical guidance provided at the Foundation Grant launch. Proposals should focus on meeting the mission of the Centre, which is on novel therapeutics for pathogens of pandemic potential.
Can a platform technology be developed for a non-pandemic disease that would be transferable to pandemic diseases as part of the program?	Please refer to the technical guidance provided at the Foundation Grant launch.

	The Centre is pathogen agnostic. All approaches should target a pathogen of pandemic potential and/or can rapidly adapt to a new pathogen.
Can discovery projects looking at mechanisms of disease, that could potentially identify drug targets, be eligible? Or does it have to be more progressed and you need to know that it will definitely identify drug targets?	<p>Please refer to the technical guidance provided at the Foundation Grant launch. Grants may focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development of platform technologies that will develop therapeutics for pathogens of pandemic potential at speed. • Fundamental virology, bacteriology or immunology that will identify novel targets for therapeutics for pathogens of pandemic potential • Development of therapeutics that have activity across viral or relevant bacterial families e.g., therapeutics that have activity against all sarbecoviruses not just SARS-CoV-2 • Enabling capabilities such as animal models, organoid systems, assay development, bioinformatics, genomics or biomarkers or other capabilities that can support therapeutic development.
Is antibiotic resistance included in the scope of the grants?	Please refer to the technical guidance provided at the Foundation Grant launch.
Is reformatting of existing drugs in scope? For example, combining existing antibiotics into single dose format to improve adherence and ease of treatment.	No. Reformatting existing drugs is not in scope.
Will there be oversight of all the submissions to see how they are interconnected, or can we refer to other submissions in our proposal? For example, in the 'platform' grants (animal models/organoids), do we need to mention which other projects the platform can specifically support?	Each proposal needs to be distinct and able to be funded and undertaken without need for other proposals to also be successful.